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Ervin's 'Bill Of Rights'

Federal Employee Protection Proposal Clears Senate Unit

BY ROY PARKER JR.
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Sam Ervin's sweeping "bill of rights" for federal civilian employees was approved by the full Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday.

The North Carolina Senator and his allies successfully fought off closed-door attempts to water down provisions of his bill which would inhibit several widespread personnel practices which Ervin charged trampled the personal rights of government workers.

The committee did adopt an

amendment exempting employees of the supersecret Central Intelligence Agency and its military counterpart, the National Security Agency, from the protection of the Ervin bill if directors of the agencies said it was in the interest of national security.

ERVIN'S BILL, co-sponsored by more than half the members of the Senate, would curtail government use of lie detector and psychological testing, ban racial entries on personnel forms, limit requirements for financial disclosure by government workers, and generally warn government managers against pressuring workers to take part in off-hours or voluntary activities such as bond drives and community activities.

The bill also sets up a board of employees rights independent of the Civil Service Commission, the boss agency of the federal career bureaucracy. The rights board would hear complaints under the Ervin bill.

OTHER ERVIN amendments also honed harsh edges off some

of the earlier outright prohibitions in the bill and largely exempted workers engaged in international affairs or national security affairs.

The Ervin bill was strongly backed by unions representing the more than two million federal government workers. The Civil Service Commission and other government agencies, under pressure of the bill, had also honed down some of the practices which the bill was designed to inhibit.

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